

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 480

September 29, 1995, 7:23 p.m.
Page S-14647 Temp. Record

COMMERCE-JUSTICE-STATE APPROPRIATIONS/Crime Prevention Programs

SUBJECT: Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1996 . . . H.R. 2076. Kohl/Cohen amendment No. 2843.

ACTION: AMENDMENT AGREED TO, 49-41

SYNOPSIS: As amended, H.R. 2076, the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies appropriations bill for fiscal year 1996, will provide a total of \$27.014 billion in new budget authority, which is \$4.112 billion less than the Administration requested. The bill will be within its 602(b) budget allocations for budget authority and outlays due to an increase in its allocations during debate. The Justice Department and the Judiciary will receive substantial increases in funding, and the Commerce Department, the State Department, and related agencies will receive substantial reductions in funding. Budget authority will be distributed, by title, as follows:

- Title I, Justice Department and related agencies: \$14.964 billion, including: \$2.605 billion for the Federal Bureau of Investigation; \$2.945 billion for the Federal prison system; and \$850 million for the Drug Enforcement Agency;
 - Commerce Department and related agencies, \$3.299 billion (reductions in Commerce Department funding reflect the assumption that the Department will be eliminated), including: \$351.3 million for the National Institute of Standards and Technology; \$100 million for the Economic Development Administration (a decrease of 76 percent); \$76.3 million for the Manufacturing Extension Program (Hollings Centers); and \$45.9 million for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (the Administration requested \$133.3 million; see vote No. 477);
 - Judiciary: \$3.074 billion;
 - State Department and related agencies, \$4.524 billion, including: \$550 million for contributions for international organizations (United Nations); \$225 million for United Nations international peacekeeping; and \$22.7 million for the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (a decrease of 55 percent); and
 - Related Agencies, \$1.545 billion, including: Legal Services Corporation, \$340 million (see vote No. 476).
- Miscellaneous:

(See other side)

YEAS (49)		NAYS (41)			NOT VOTING (10)		
Republicans (9 or 18%)	Democrats (40 or 98%)	Republicans (40 or 82%)	Democrats (1 or 2%)	Republicans (5)	Democrats (5)		
Campbell	Akaka	Hollings	Abraham	Hutchison	Byrd	Bennett- ²	Glenn- ²
Chafee	Baucus	Inouye	Ashcroft	Kempthorne		Helms- ^{2AN}	Johnston- ²
Cohen	Biden	Kennedy	Bond	Kyl		Inhofe- ²	Kerrey- ²
DeWine	Bingaman	Kerry	Brown	Lott		Shelby- ²	Lieberman- ²
Hatfield	Boxer	Kohl	Burns	Lugar		Specter- ²	Simon- ²
Jeffords	Bradley	Lautenberg	Coats	Mack			
Kassebaum	Breaux	Leahy	Cochran	McCain			
Simpson	Bryan	Levin	Coverdell	McConnell			
Snowe	Bumpers	Mikulski	Craig	Murkowski			
	Conrad	Moseley-Braun	D'Amato	Nickles			
	Daschle	Moynihan	Dole	Packwood			
	Dodd	Murray	Domenici	Pressler			
	Dorgan	Nunn	Faircloth	Roth			
	Exon	Pell	Frist	Santorum			
	Feingold	Pryor	Gorton	Smith			
	Feinstein	Reid	Gramm	Stevens			
	Ford	Robb	Grams	Thomas			
	Graham	Rockefeller	Grassley	Thompson			
	Harkin	Sarbanes	Gregg	Thurmond			
	Heflin	Wellstone	Hatch	Warner			
						EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:	
						1—Official Business	
						2—Necessarily Absent	
						3—Illness	
						4—Other	
						SYMBOLS:	
						AY—Announced Yea	
						AN—Announced Nay	
						PY—Paired Yea	
						PN—Paired Nay	

- the programs of the Violence Against Women Act will receive \$175 million (see vote No. 474);
- certain bands of Direct Broadcast Spectrum will be allocated by auction unless an alternate method will be more beneficial to taxpayers (see vote No. 475);
- it is the sense of the Senate that the President should seek congressional approval before deploying U.S. ground forces in Bosnia, unless an emergency situation necessitates deployment before approval can be obtained (see vote No. 479);
- abortions for Federal prisoners will be paid for with public funds only in cases in which the life of the mother is threatened or in cases of rape (see vote No. 478 for related debate);
- prior congressional notice will be required before using United Nations peacekeeping funding for new or expanded peacekeeping missions;
- Current restrictions on judges' authority to mandate changes in prison management, including by ordering the release of prisoners to meet judicially imposed prison caps, will be expanded;
- limitations will be placed on the ability of prisoners to file frivolous lawsuits;
- voter registration cards will not be used as proof of citizenship; and
- conditions will be established for the termination of sanctions on Serbia and Montenegro.

The Kohl/Cohen amendment would add funding for three crime prevention programs. First, Byrne local crime prevention block grants would be given \$50 million; second, \$20 million of that \$50 million would be transferred to the Justice Department's gang-free schools and communities program and its community-based gang intervention program; and third, \$30 million would be appropriated for the Weed and Seed Program (a community policing program). The \$80 million cost of the amendment would be offset by cutting the appropriation for Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) salaries and expenses by \$80 million.

NOTE: Following the vote, the bill, as amended, was passed by voice vote.

Those favoring the amendment contended:

In last year's crime bill, the split between funding for law enforcement and for crime prevention was roughly 80 percent to 20 percent. The bill before us will basically deny funding for that 20 percent that was passed for crime prevention. The Kohl/Cohen amendment would restore \$80 million of that crime prevention funding, which is only one-fourth of the amount cut. We do not support this amendment because we are "soft on crime;" we support it because the programs it would fund work.

First, a portion would be spent on Byrne grants. These grants are used for such crime prevention programs as building boys and girls clubs. A comparative study was done in Chicago and New York of those projects that had boys and girls clubs and those projects that did not. The projects with clubs had 31 percent lower arrest rates, 27 percent less use of drugs, and 19 percent lower violent crime arrest rates. Second, the Kohl/Cohen amendment would fund the Weed and Seed Program, which was started under President Bush. The support for this program from State and local officials has been immense. By providing for close coordination between local communities and the police to prevent crime, provide human services, and promote economic development, community leadership develops, local distrust of the police declines, and crime rates fall. The third and final crime prevention area that this amendment would fund would be the Justice Department's two gang prevention programs. Gang-related crime is growing dramatically. Substance abuse treatment, boot camp prisons, community service, and other efforts being taken by this program to reduce and prevent gang violence are effective (and cheap) alternatives to lifetime imprisonment. To pay for this spending, the amendment would cut \$80 million from FBI salaries and expenses. This "cut" is not actually a cut from last year's funding level; it is only a cut in the bill's increase from last year's funding level. This \$80 million, we remind our colleagues, was not even requested by the FBI. It is not needed. Funding for crime prevention is needed, though. We think it would be an expensive mistake not to agree to this amendment, because if we do not, we are going to have a lot more criminals whom we are going to have to lock up. We therefore urge our colleagues to vote in favor of this amendment.

Those opposing the amendment contended:

Our colleagues have short memories. Just a couple of months, when debating the Anti-Terrorism Act in the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing, Senator after Senator stood on the floor and passionately insisted that the FBI needed large funding increases in order to combat terrorism. This bill will partially deliver on the authorizations that the Senate agreed to in that bill. It will not fully fund those authorizations, but at least they will not be empty promises conveniently made at a time when the Nation was very aware of the need for greater law enforcement efforts. Our colleagues now insist that funding is not needed. Instead, they want to use it for crime prevention programs. They tell us we should give this money because State and local officials say that receiving it in the past has helped in their "crime prevention" efforts. This fact does not impress us; State and local officials love to receive "free" money for any purpose. Perhaps Senators really believe that the best way to deter criminals is to enroll them in midnight basketball leagues, but we do not. We see escalating crime waves, and an increasing threat from domestic terrorism, and we want to increase law enforcement funding. The choice we are being offered is very clear-cut. We favor law enforcement, and thus oppose this amendment.